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SAN GORGONIO

Palm and Pine

A publication of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club
Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

Protect America's Environment For our Families . . . For our Future

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30 x 30 - Next Steps For Action ..and How You Can Help

It's been a year since we published our first updates and shared our kick-off campaign to conserve 30% of lands and coastal waters by the year 2030. Here's a little refresher and update, with an opportunity for you to make a difference in this important campaign.

First, What IS 30 by 30 and why should it matter? 30x30 is a global movement seeks to conserve 30 percent of lands and coastal waters by the year 2030—or "30 by 30".

We are in a global crisis for biodiversity, as countless species of animals and plants could be extinct in 50 to 100 years—unless we drastically change our sprawling land use and protect far more wild habitat; probably at least "Half Earth" is needed as places where nature can dominate. Aiming for 30 percent over the next decade is seen as an achievable "stepping stone" toward an eventual 50 percent—called "Nature Needs Half". The Sierra Club has joined the global Nature Needs Half initiative.

California became the first state to adopt "30 by 30" as official state policy, in an October 2020 Executive Order by Governor Gavin Newsom. And in January 2021, President Biden gave a national 30 by 30 executive order—his program is dubbed "America the Beautiful."

In addition to fighting species extinction, "30 by 30" directly addresses climate change: protecting natural lands enhances the carbon sequestration ability of lands and waters – whether unlogged forests, undisturbed desert soils, grasslands, or marine habitats.

Currently, ~12 percent of the nation and about 22 percent of California (with more than average protected public lands) is considered "conserved". (More next issue on defining "conserved".)

To work with the state of California and assure its new policy will result in significant conservation gains, Sierra Club in California set up the "California 30 by 30 task force"—with representatives from most of our Chapters. The Chapters have also identified local places important to them for conservation. Throughout 2021 our Task Force has worked with the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) as they sought public input to draft a plan to reach this goal

Local conservation priorities here in San Gorgonio Chapter include protecting our at-risk desert habitat in areas like the Chuckwalla Mountains, as well as local inland watersheds along the Santa Ana River.

Take action today by [signing up HERE](#) for our 30X30 Action Update on Weds. Jan 26 at 7:00 PM. We have an opportunity to let CNRA know what is important to our communities here in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. You'll hear all the details on how to participate and make your voice heard.

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January Trail Talk

**Trail Talk: Debunking Wildfire
in California's Forests
January 19, 2022 | 7:00 PM**



Please join us for a detailed discussion of wildfire and the effects of wildfire on California's forests by Chad Hanson, Ph.D., Big Bear City ecologist with the John Muir Project and Sierra Club member. Mr. Hanson has published nationally on wildfire; his new book *Smokescreen: Debunking Wildfire Myths to Save Our Forests and Our Climate* was published in May, 2021.

As always, the Trail Talk will be held virtually via Zoom on the third Wednesday of the month: January 19, 2022, at 7:00 PM. Please [RSVP HERE](#) and the zoom link will be sent to you.

February Trail Talk

**Trail Talk: Photographer QT Luong On His New Book,
Our National Monuments
February 16, 2022 | 7:00 PM**

Photographer QT Luong will discuss his stunning new book of photographs, *Our National Monuments: America's Hidden Gems* (2021) during our February "Trail Talk." Mr. Luong -- who is also the author of the best-selling photography book about the national parks, *Treasured Lands* -- will join us via Zoom on Wednesday, February 16 at 7:00 PM to talk about the national monuments and his photographic method.

Mr. Luong has written five photographic books and was featured in Ken Burns' film, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. He has received the National Parks Conservation Association's Robin W. Winks Award for Enhancing Public Understanding of National Parks. Luong lives in San Jose with his wife and two children.

[RSVP HERE](#) for February Trail Talk with QT Luong. You will receive the Zoom link once you RSVP.

Update from Sacramento: Sierra Club California News



Governor's Budget Proposal Invests Critical Dollars in California's Fight Against Climate Crisis

SACRAMENTO— Today, Governor Gavin Newsom released his 2022-2023 state budget proposal, which includes critical funding to protect Californians against the climate crisis. The budget integrates key state dollars to combat climate change into every facet of state government.

The governor's proposed budget allocates \$22.5 billion over five years across all agencies. Specifically, the budget seeks to increase funding for zero emission vehicles, decarbonize California homes and buildings, invest in water conservation and efficiency technologies, support small farmers in transitioning to climate-friendly production, and establish a framework to support transitioning workers from polluting industries to clean energy jobs.

The budget proposal commits \$6.1 billion in clean transportation to put clean cars, trucks, and buses on the road and support an equitable transition to electrification for underserved communities. Included in this commitment is \$1.5 billion for electric school buses and \$2 billion for zero-emission trucks, buses, and off-road equipment and infrastructure. This will profoundly reduce toxic air pollutants throughout the state, particularly in areas that have been historically overburdened by dirty energy and transportation.

Governor Newsom reiterated commitments to phasing out fossil fuels. His proposal invests billions to transition the state off of dirty fossil fuels towards affordable, clean energy. There are also provisions in the budget to train oil and gas industry workers in oil well remediation and clean energy jobs. The proposal also includes funds to cap and remediate abandoned oil and gas wells - however - the costs of cleaning up dirty oil wells should be footed by the fossil fuel industry, not state taxpayers.

Lastly, the governor doubled down on investments in conserving California's lands and waters. The budget proposal includes \$382 million for the 30x30 initiative, which aims to preserve 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030, as well as an additional \$756 million to advance State Parks programs and the Outdoors for All initiative. This funding will help ensure that access to nature is equitable for all Californians.

Statement from Brandon Dawson, Director of Sierra Club California:

"The Governor's budget proposal highlights just how involved the state must be to combat the climate crisis and protect California for future generations. If adopted, many of the investments announced today will aid in mitigating the worst of climate change's impacts.

"However, Californians know that we need more than just money to fight the climate crisis. We need strong regulatory actions to address the source of the crisis: the practices of the fossil fuel and other extractive and exploitative industries that continue to harm our lands, rivers, ecosystems, and communities - largely BIPOC and underserved communities. The state must hold these industries accountable and ensure they foot the cost of remediation, not the taxpayers.

"Sierra Club California staff, volunteers, and members look forward to working with the Governor and legislature to ensure that any budget allocations protect our communities, and lead to a safe, clean environment for generations of Californians to come."

You Could be Here in 2023!

Planning for 2022 is underway with our newly elected Executive Committee. Your 2022 Executive Committee members are: Bhavin Jindal, Bobbi Jo Chavarria, Brian Siana, Joan Taylor, Kim Floyd, Ladd Seekins, Mary Ann Ruiz, Pam Nelson and Steve Farrell. The ExCom acts in a similar role to a Board of Director for a not-for-profit organization. Volunteer members of this board make decisions on the direction of the local chapter's priorities, activities and finances. Joining this team is an excellent way to gain experience in organizational management. Contact our Chair, Mary Ann Ruiz, at chair@sangorgonio.sierraclub.org to learn more about how you can get involved.

Following is the charge of the Chapter's Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee (ExCom) is the representative leadership team for the chapter. ExComs are responsible for their chapter achieving four key outcomes:

1. Advance the Club's Mission

- Achieve conservation objectives that are part of Club-wide priorities
- Achieve conservation objectives specific to your geography / state
- Elect environmental public officials

2. Provide Service to Members, Supporters and the Public

- Connect people to the outdoors through outdoor activities
- Make current Club / issue information available publicly/online
- Provide meaningful opportunities to take action (online and in-person)
- Connect environmentally-minded people with shared interests
- Educate members and the public about our issues

3. Build Local Resources

- Build & maintain a robust leadership structure (groups/committees/campaigns)
- Involve individual volunteers, activists and participants
- Foster working relationships with other community leaders and organizations
- Build a robust base of local donors

4. Exercise Effective Governance & Fiduciary Oversight

- Establish budgets based on priorities
- ExCom elections
- ExCom meetings
- Financial reporting
- Leader reporting/updates
- Staff management
- Financial management
- Outings safety
- Political & legal compliance
- Proper use of C(3) & C(4) funds
- Standards of conduct

Moreno Valley Group Update

by Ann McKibben

The Sierra Club has extended their restrictions on activities through the end of February 2022 due to the continuing issues related to the COVID pandemic. Please check our MV Group Facebook page and the Chapter web page <https://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org/> for more information about upcoming outings or you can email the Moreno Valley Group Outings Chair Christina Torres at: cmt.teck@gmail.com if you have questions.

Manya Jiannino, Christina Torres and Ann McKibben were elected to our Moreno Valley Group ExCom this December. Besides sending in ballots many group members chose to make a donation to our group. Many thanks to all of you who took time to vote and send in a donation!

Here is some updated information on projects we are following:

Moreno Valley Business Park (MVBP): Earlier this year we hired an attorney to challenge the MVBP at the southeast corner of Ironwood Avenue and Heacock Street. Thanks to your donations the developer has said he is rescinding all approvals on this project. We believe this was based on recommendations from his attorney. The environmental review did a very poor job of addressing the impacts to the families living across the street, diesel truck traffic on both roads/intersections, and air quality/greenhouse gas. After our attorney wrote a very good letter and started filing the lawsuit the developer wanted to settle, but the Sierra Club said no because of how poorly their analysis was of their impacts.

Pilot Travel Center (PTC): The Truck Stop is proposed for the northwest corner of Redlands Boulevard and Eucalyptus Avenue (near the roundabout) which will have more than 6,500 Daily vehicle trips of which 2,200 will be Diesel Trucks. It would be across the street from land zoned for homes. It will also allow for overnight truck parking. They will need to use the poorly designed roundabout as well as the small inadequate interchange on Redlands Boulevard. The project was to be voted on by the Planning Commission in December, but was postponed until Thursday, January 13. This project may not need to go to the city council for approval. Please express your concerns by sending them to Planner Jeff Bradshaw (jeffrejb@moval.org) and ask for confirmation that they were forwarded to each planning commissioner.



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This project's direct/indirect cumulative impacts are much closer than 300 feet to the land across the street that is zoned for homes and therefore the families that could be living in them. It is not the building or the pumps that cause impacts, but the toxic diesel trucks that will be using Eucalyptus Avenue which places them more like 100 feet away from the property our recently approved General Plan designated for family homes. Based on the traffic report the project will attract more than 6,500 trips of which at least 2,200 are toxic diesel truck trips using Eucalyptus Avenue and therefore within 100 feet of land zoned for homes.

This Truck Stop Project is inconsistent with the. The “Vision and Guiding Principles” of the General Plan 4 including to support and create “Livable Neighborhoods” that “prioritize ... community health.” General Plan p. 1-10. According to the Land Use & Community Character Element, the purpose of the General Plan’s land use designations are to “enhance [] livability and quality of life for current and future residents . . .” General Plan p. 2-8. Yet the Project will result in uses that brings substantial truck traffic and noise to the residential designated area across the street. The General Plan states that “residential neighborhoods form the basic fabric of the community. These are areas of the city characterized primarily by housing, parks, and community facilities.” Id. The Project—a vehicle attracting facility consisting of round-the-clock operations and thousands of truck trips per day—represents the opposite of community-oriented development.

In a few years the World Logistic Center will be having a truck stop in a much better location which will not impact nearby residents and those trying to use the roundabout on Redlands Boulevard. Many of the project's trucks will be trying to use the roundabout which is really too small for them to easily make the turns and the Redlands Boulevard overpass/interchange is already very busy for its small size with no plans for future improvements. Those project trucks heading west will impact the Auto Center and therefore probably some of the city’s tax revues from car sales.

Will there be 24/7 security personnel at this Truck Stop?

Moreno Valley Trade Center (MVTC): The Moreno Valley Planning Commission voted to deny this project at its October 28 meeting. The developer was set to appeal the denial at a December 7 city council meeting. But by a 3-1 vote the city council decided to postpone their decision in order to allow the developer more time to update the plan to make it more compatible for surrounding land uses.

The location of this proposed massive 1,321,380 sq. ft. warehouse is west of Redlands Boulevard, south of Eucalyptus Avenue, and north of Encelia Avenue and includes Hall Nursery and the vacant land zoned for homes south of the Aldi warehouse. It is also proposed across the street from homes and whose residents did a good job of expressing their disapproval of the project as did some of you. We still need to send all of the councilmembers and the city emails stating our concerns with this poorly placed project.

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The final environmental impact report (FEIR) and other environmental documents regarding the MVTC can be found at the following link: <http://www.moval.org/cdd/documents/about-projects.html> Please contact project planner Gabriel Diaz, Associate Planner at Gabrield@moval.org to be notified of the next city council meeting and any questions you may have regarding this project. He can also be contacted via: Gabriel Diaz, Associate Planner, Community Development Department, City of Moreno Valley, 14177 Frederick Street, Moreno Valley, CA 92553.

Compass Danbe Centerpointe Warehouse Project: The city of Moreno Valley was to vote on the Compass Danbe Centerpointe warehouse project on October 19, but the item was continued off calendar to some unknown future date. The 389,603 square foot project site is located south of Alessandro Boulevard between Frederick Street and Graham Street. The project's Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) indicates that trucks accessing or exiting the project site may also use the city-designated truck routes along Frederick Street, Heacock Street and Alessandro Boulevard to travel to and from State Route 60. Nine schools are located within 1/4 mile of City-Designated truck routes that could/would be used by the proposed project. Our attorney submitted a comment letter detailing our concerns about the project. The MND environmental analysis did a Health Risk Assessment (HRA), but stated that "there are no schools within 1/4 mile of the Project site. As such there would be no significant impacts that would occur to any school in the vicinity of the Project." (page 2 HRA) The Planning Commission approved this warehouse believing this was true. Even South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) made comments thinking no schools would be impacted. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) recommends warehouse projects with their diesel truck traffic like this one should be 1,000 feet away from sensitive resources—which includes schools as well as the homes/apartments across the street from the warehouse. The project planner is Julia Descoteaux, juliad@moval.org and she needs to receive your email expressing concern over the project before the city council votes on this project.

MoVal 2040—Moreno Valley General Plan Update (GPU) & Climate Action Plan (CAP): On July 15 our Sierra Club filed a lawsuit against the city of Moreno Valley on their approval of the GPU and CAP. The big part of the litigation is pointing out the need to reduce air quality and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) impacts on the health of people—especially children and the elderly—as well as the environment. Hopefully litigation will correct and/or improve the environment for Moreno Valley residents. A few examples that concern the Sierra Club: 1) the EIR analysis did not address the current built conditions but instead used the baseline established by what could be built using the 2006 General Plan. That plan never envisioned or included the current concentration of warehouses approved by Moreno Valley; 2) The EIR failed to adopt substantive mitigation measures for our protection, and instead will rely on future project proposals to do so. Early anticipation of development impacts merit mitigation measures be adopted now that guarantee a proper outcome; 3) The General Plan and Climate Action Plan appears to permit an increase of the annual greenhouse gas emissions with the City by over 50% compared to existing conditions.

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Yet again, the EIR fails to include enough valid mitigation measures to reduce those environmental impacts. Failing to address these impacts now appears to make it easier to approve warehousing near family homes in the southwest part of Moreno Valley. Another is allowing 10 units per acre in the rural northeast part of Moreno Valley where there are no sidewalks, bus routes, bike paths, stores or even sewers without addressing cumulative/growth inducing impacts which becomes the precursor for further expansions into this area.

The city has been very slow on providing all the communications from the public on the GPU/CAP for the administrative record needed to pursue litigation. They have also indicated they may want to pursue a settlement instead of going to court.

Heacock Street Commerce Center (HSCC): The Heacock Street Commerce Center is a proposed warehouse project located at the southeast corner of Heacock Street and Gentian Avenue. It is the latest warehouse that impacts nearby homeowners. The 873,967 square foot warehouse location is adjacent to homes—some only 20 feet away—and requires another General Plan Amendment (GPA) from land zoned for homes/commercial. The following link <https://www.moval.org/cdd/documents/about-projects.html> has information on the project. Because of the project's location toxic diesel trucks will more than likely use Heacock Street as their direct path to SR-60 resulting in them passing at least three schools that are adjacent to Heacock Street. Please email city planner Jeff Bradshaw (jeffreymb@moval.org) and request to be sent all environmental documents as well as notices of meetings for this project.

Lake Perris State Recreation Area (LPSRA): Most COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted at state parks, but please take time to review their new updates at the LPSRA web page: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=651 If you have not already bought your yearly LPSRA pass, now is a good time to buy your annual Limited Use Golden Bear Pass (\$20.00) for those 62 years or older. It is valid from January 1 until December 31 except Memorial Day through Labor Day. It can be purchased at the LPSRA campground kiosk or the state's website: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23800 The pass can also be used at most other state parks and is good for everyone in your car. Please check the following link for information on all of the passes that the State Park system offers: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1049



Santa Margarita Group Update

by Pam Nelson

The Santa Margarita Group is starting out the year at a quick pace. We're scheduled for several outreach events; Jan. 22nd, through our partner, Meetup, members have been invited to attend Hawkwatch, in Ramona, hosted by the Wildlife Research Institute. This is an annual event that occurs every Saturday in January and February at the Begent Ranch in Ramona. It starts at 9:30am with free donuts and coffee. From this site, there's a parade of raptors and other birds to view, along with captive rescues for a closer view. Go any Saturday, or attend with our Group on the 22nd.

The 23rd will be a Climate Action get-together at the Riverside Corona Resource District. Anyone can attend this event from 1 to 3 pm to discuss strategies and ideas and visit group informational tables with displays.

Temecula City has begun a new program with the help of Dudek staff, Kalie Ortiz, called Urban Forest Management. They've asked us for help with projects and outreach. You can help by taking their survey at Temeculatree.org. They are planning a Summit in the Spring.

Abbott Vascular, a large corporation in Temecula, has also asked for our assistance in finding water-conservation projects. This will help them achieve their Water Stewardship Certification. It's a lofty goal, but Abbott is dedicated to becoming a leader in environmental solutions for corporations.

Our Native Plant Garden leader, Caren Hanson and her team, can now claim a success now that the pilot project with the City of Menifee has been implemented. Our Group provided native plants for the new Spirit Park garden under her team's direction. Now she will work with them to provide educational signage. The team will soon see the pilot project in Temecula come together by the end of January.

Dr. Gordon Pratt's project, WeR4Butterflies, moved along with the late December native seed planting trip to the May Valley Road site. His team planted seeds where invasive plants were removed from a burned area of the forest near Idyllwild by earlier work-party participants. The seeds had been collected over the Fall at nearby locations on several other team trips. This has been a fun and rewarding project in a beautiful location. Let's hope to see a beautiful patch of restored forest next Spring! Thanks, Gordon.

Our Speaker Series continues to have amazing presentations. We heard from Alex Tardy of NOAA in December about weather patterns. January 13th will be a good one again from Mike Wells about the Anza Borrego region's natural history. Next will be an Earth Justice staff person, Yasmine Agelides.

2022 Ex-com Results: Pam Nelson, Shea Millan, Rod Kelley, Bob Audibert, Caren Hanson, David Marrett, Margaret Meyncke. (Shea Millan was appointed to fill a vacant spot)

Officers: Chair: Pam Nelson, Vice chair: Shea Millan, Secretary: Rod Kelley, Treasurer: Bruce Weimer

Big Bear Group Update

by Ellen Kesler

Happy New Year!

Our ExCom is anxious to get going again as I imagine everyone is. The following are the 2022 officers and ExCom members:

Chair: Ellen Kesler

Vice Chair: Ed Wallace

Treasurer: Marv Cira

Conservation Chair: Ed Wallace

Outings Chair: Judy Atkinson

Members-at-Large - Randy Carroll-Bradd

Linda Garcia

Peter Michaelsen

We have a challenge in our area that we are watching along with other Bear Valley environmental groups - the USFS North Big Bear Project. The main thrust of the project has major areas of concern; the planned approach of forest fuel reduction from west of Fawnskin, through the Bald Eagle Habitat, to the east end of the valley, connecting to the Pacific coast Trail (PCT). There are basically three areas of concern:

- (1) their Fuels Report on the thinning and vegetation management activities can cause community protection ineffective - causing lack of forest to sage and grass; faster fire spreading
- (2) the reports do not analyze the adverse impacts to resident Bald Eagles from the intense proposed logging and intensive mechanical tree cutting surrounding the known nesting location (where they are presently), including the proposed new trail right through the nest area including prescribed burning in same area. The mechanical disturbance impacts can cause nest abandonment.
- (3) the new proposed trail (where there already exists a wonderful trail) will extend across that mountain to the PCT in the east valley and meet the PCT. They will allow the low-mph E-Bikes on the trail, which is prohibited on the PCT. Who will prevent the higher mph bikes on the trail? Who will stop them from going onto the PCT?

Protecting the Bald Eagles, protecting our properties from fast-spreading fires (like what happened to Paradise) and stopping the creation of an unnecessary trail are major concerns for this community.

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If you have named Sierra Club or your Chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today

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photo credit Lisa Sanford, view from Mt. Baldy to Catalina in the distance)

Outings are Back!

(photo credit Lisa Sanford, view from Mt. Baldy to Catalina in the distance)

We are excited that Outings are back! [Check our calendar](#) for the latest updates in hikes and events through the end of February. Hikes listed are from easy to moderate to strenuous, in our local deserts and mountains. Check out the list and don't forget to look regularly to see additions to our schedule. In addition to outings, you'll find all our Trail Talks and Chapter Events. (just an example of our schedule at print time. [Click on this link](#) for current schedule.)

	List View	Map View	Calendar View						
Date	Activity (click title for full description)	Sponsor	Category	Type	Difficulty	Miles Away	Links		
Wed 1/19/22 7:00 PM	Trail Talk: Debunking Wildfire in California's Forests	San Gorgonio Chapter	📍 Activist Event	Community forum	--				
Sat 1/22/22 8:00 AM	ART SMITH-SHAY PALM DESERT HIKE	Tahquitz Group	📍 Outing	Hike	Strenuous		Map or Directions		
Sun 1/23/22 8:30 AM	WILDWOOD CANYON STATE PARK HIKE - YUCAIPA	Big Bear Group	📍 Outing	Hike	Moderate				
Wed 1/26/22 7:00 PM	30X30 Action Update	San Gorgonio Chapter	📍 Activist Event	Community forum	--				
Sat 1/29/22 8:00 AM	SOUTH LYKKEN TRAIL HIKE - PALM SPRINGS	Big Bear Group	📍 Outing	Hike	Moderate				
Sun 2/6/22 8:00 AM	RAINBOW ROCKS HIKE - WHITEWATER PRESERVE	Big Bear Group	📍 Outing	Hike	Moderate				
Thu 2/10/22 8:30 AM	MURRAY CANYON CONSERVATION HISTORY WALK	Tahquitz Group	📍 Outing	Hike	Easy		Map or Directions		
Sat 2/12/22 8:30 AM	MORTON PEAK LOOKOUT TOWER HIKE - MENTONE	Big Bear Group	📍 Outing	Hike	Moderate				
Sun 2/13/22 8:00 AM	CIRCUMNAVIGATE MURRAY HILL - PALM SPRINGS - HIKE	Tahquitz Group	📍 Outing	Hike	Strenuous		Map or Directions		
Wed 2/16/22 7:00 PM	Trail Talk: Our National Monuments: America's Hidden Gems	San Gorgonio Chapter	📍 Activist Event	Community forum	--				
Sat 2/19/22 8:00 AM	CACTUS SPRING HIKE	Tahquitz Group	📍 Outing	Hike	Strenuous		Map or Directions		
Mon 2/28/22 8:00 AM	PERRIS LAKE HIKE - PERRIS LAKE STATE PARK	Big Bear Group	📍 Outing	Hike	Moderate				